



**GOOD SHOW! --** On Dec. 27, the last day of the combat portion of FDR's deployment, Bob Hope brought his Christmas Show on board to perform and say goodby. Here Bob Hope and Miss Reita Faria, Miss World of 1967, perform during the show.

trip home. Bad weather delayed the arrival in Subic until Jan. 17. After remaining in Subic only one night, the FDR headed for the open sea on the afternoon of Jan. 18. Barely clear of the harbor and enroute home, almost as if the old girl was reluctant to commence the more than 12,000-mile journey home, she registered a complaint from somewhere in the propulsion system. It was the sort of time when the crew would jokingly refer to breaking out the sails and the oars. The problem would have to be located and evaluated before a decision to sail for home could be made. Another anxious night was spent in Subic Bay in hopes that the morning would see us on our way. With the coming of dawn, the FDR proved she was fit for the high seas and the decision was made.

The old warrior again set her course westward toward home; a decision which greatly cheered the crew. Transiting from the South China Sea to the Indian Ocean the FDR began to breathe easier as the heavy demands of the war zone were left behind. Thoughts now turned to the homecoming and hopes

were that good weather would hold in favor providing smooth seas and a stern wind thus preventing any further delay.

Reaching the Equator again on Jan. 22, at longitude 107.059E, King Neptune stepped foot on board for the second time in seven months and found 642 Pollywogs among the crew who had not been initiated into the silent mysteries of the deep. These 642 Pollywogs had all come on board during the WestPac deployment, having been flown out to the FDR in the combat zone. This huge turnover in manpower is a good indication of the capability and flexibility of the U.S. Navy under combat conditions.

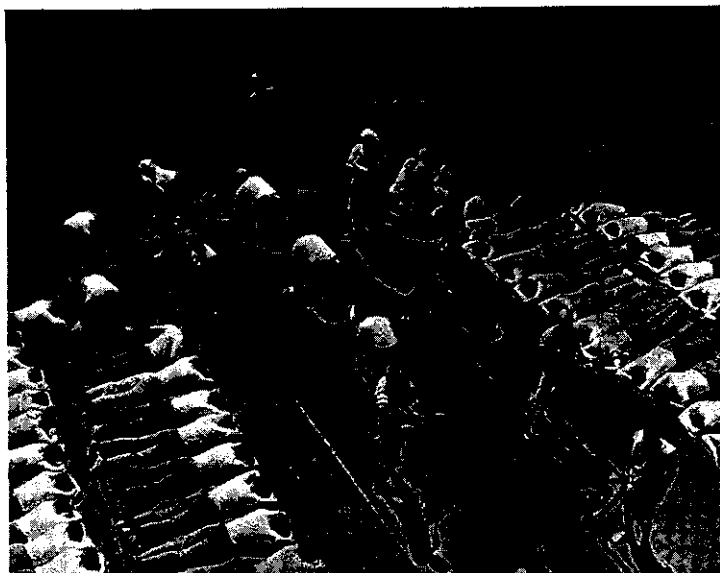
King Neptune and his Royal Court quickly made seasoned salts and trusty Shellbacks of these lowly specimens, and the FDR set sail once again bound for Cape Town, Republic of South Africa, and thence to home.

Arriving in Cape Town in the early morning of Feb. 4, last minute developments in Washington

**CHANGE OF COMMAND --** Capt. Martin G. O'Neill (left) prepares to read his orders taking command of the FDR in Hong Kong, relieving the temporary skipper, Capt. James D. Ramage. The change of command took place on Jan. 12, 1967, following the illness of former CG, Capt. George C. Talley, Jr.



UNDER WATCHFUL EYES of trusty Shellbacks, humble, lowly Pollywogs are herded onto the forward elevator prior to being initiated into the realm of His Majesty, Neptunus Rex. Ceremonies were held aboard the homeward-bound FDR on Jan. 22, 1967. King Neptune first stepped on board FDR seven months before on July 26, 1966.



now made it impossible to grant shore leave and liberty to FDR personnel in Cape Town. Thus for the long, sweltering weekend all hands were kept on board, much to the mutual embarrassment of all the crewmen and the citizens of South Africa, a warm and friendly nation.

Leaving Cape Town behind on Monday, Feb. 6, the FDR at last commenced the final leg of the

journey home. During the eight-month deployment the gallant warrior had steamed more than 94,000 miles, a distance almost equal to four trips around the world at the Equator.

Her crewmen were battle-tested veterans to the very last man. And each man on board the FDR could proudly say: "We were there."

CAPE TOWN -- The best port city we didn't visit. FDR pulls into inner harbor at Cape Town, Republic of South Africa, on Feb. 4. Last minute developments in Washington made it impossible to grant liberty in the beautiful city.

